

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 15094 171701Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 MCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SY-02 SP-02 SAA-01
ACDA-10 /051 W
-----126317 171716Z /42

O 171545Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 4992
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T ROME 15094

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS,FR,IT,LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST INCIDENT

REF: STATE 205823

IN AUGUST 17 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY
GENERAL FRANCESCO MALFATTI, CHARGE RAISED ISSURE OF TERRORIST
USE OF ITALIAN ARMS SOLD TO LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. MALFATTI'S
AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS
FOLLOWS:

A. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI MADE A "STRONG DEMARCHE"
ABOUT THE INCIDENT WHICH WAS INTENDED TO PUT THE GOL FIRMLY
ON NOTICE. LIBYAN RESPONSE WAS A GESTURE OF HELPLESS RESIGNATION
WHICH ITALIANS INTERPRET AS LIBYAN ADMINISTRATIVE
INABILITY TO CONTROL WEAPONS IMPORTS.

B. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES IN
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CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE LIBYAN OFFICIALS TO REINFORCE
THE IMPORTANCE OF GOL MAINTAINING CONTROL OVER IMPORTED
WEAPONS. GOI PREFERS TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM BILATERALLY
WITH GOI RATHER THAN MAKING JOINT DEMARCHES EITHER
WITH USG OR WITH THE FRENCH. IN VIEW OF EFFUSIVE
GREETING AND STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT OF INCREASED
LIBYAN-ITALIAN COOPERATION CONVEYED TO ITALIAN

AMBASSADOR IN PRAGUE BY QADHAFI DURING HIS RECENT VISIT
THERE, ITALIANS CONCLUDE THAT THIER DEMARCHE IN TRIPOLI
MADE THE DESIRED POINT.

C. IN Malfatti's opinion, the French will not agree
to make a joint demarche to the Libyan government. He
said GOF has made no approach in Tripoli for fear of
compromising French interests in Libya.

D. AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, Malfatti said GOI
is determined to control carefully small arms exports
and has also decided to observe closely the type of
people Arab countries are assigning to their diplomatic
missions in Rome. HOLMES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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